Vol. VII. Numb. 75

THE OBSERVATOR.

Reflexions on the Rehearſer's *Inſolence, in denying the coercive Power of Parliaments over Tyrants, and that the ſame was re-aſſerted by the Revolution. 'Tis diſgraceful to the Nation, who dethron'd a King for ſubverting the Conſtitution, to ſuffer the Principles by which he acted, to be publickly maintain'd. What People are not fit to be employ'd in the Affairs of our Admiralty and Navy.*

From **Saturday**, October 30. to **Wednesday**, November 3. 1708.

Country-m. YOU muſt take the *Rehearſal* down a little, Maſter; he grows ſo rampant, there's no enduring him.

Obſ. I can't blame him, *Roger*. You muſt allow him to be faithful to his Truſt. Any Man may ſee, by his Writing, that he is in the Intereſt of Popery and Slavery, and there's Reaſon to think he is very well pay'd for his Pains; otherwiſe he would never continue a Paper, which, by the publick Sale of it, does not bear half the Charge of Printing. But ſince he has Leave to go on with Impunity to libel the Revolution, her Majeſty's Title, and the Proteſtant Succeſſion, while thoſe who write for our fundamental Liberties, have actually been proſecuted with vexatious and groundleſs Suits, and are ſtill threaten'd with the like Treatment, we have juſt Reaſon to ſay, that ſome, who are Traytors not only to *Britiſh* Liberties, but to thoſe of all Mankind, have too much Influence among us.

Country-m. I am ſatisfy'd of the Truth of what you ſay, Maſter.

Obſ. Any Man may be ſatisfy'd of it, as well as you, *Roger*, who conſiders his Impudence. He tells me, in his laſt, that I am *ſub Miſericordia*, that is, at the Mercy of the Law; and there wants nothing but Execution to make me ſuffer as a Traytor, for ſaying, That the Revolution was founded upon the coercive Power, and re-aſſerted it. The plain *Engliſh* of which, is, That her Majeſty was then a Rebel againſt her Father, is ſince an Uſurper, that the Proteſtant Succeſſon is founded upon Rebellion and Uſurpation, and that all the Revolution-Men in *Britain* and *Ireland*, and the Dominions thereto belonging, have forfeited their Lives; and that there wants nothing but an Executioner to tye them up all at once.

Country-m. He expreſſes himſelf plainly enough, Maſter; but it ſeems he is not to be reach'd, or that no Body has had the Honeſty or Courage hitherto to attempt it. Yet my old Maſter was proſecuted, and at laſt murther'd, for maintaining the Principles of the Revolution; and if ſome People get their Will, you and I ſhall have the ſame Fate.

Obſ. Our Lives are in the Hands of God, *Roger*, and we can never lay them down for a better Cauſe, than for maintaining thoſe Liberties by which the Son of God has made Men free from Tyranny, both over their Souls and Bodies.

Country-m. But pray, Maſter, what do you ſay to his Arguments?

Obſ. It were eaſy, *Roger*, to demoliſh his whole Scheme of Tyranny and Slavery, in a few Words; but to what Purpoſe ſhould one ſpend Time to argue with a Man who is ſo far given up to a reprobate Senſe, as ſhameleſsly to deny plain Matters of Fact, which are known to all *Europe*? One had as good beat the Air, or talk to a mad Man. There has not any thing happen'd more remarkable, or better known in *Chriſtendom*, for many Years, than the late Revolution. Every Body knows that the late King *James* attempted the Subverſion of our Religion and Liberties, by a diſpenſing Power, a ſtanding Army, *&c.* 'Tis as well known, that to prevent this, the Prince of *Orange* was invited from *Holland*, and accordingly landed with an Army. No Body can deny, that the People took Arms to join him in ſeveral Parts of the Iſland; that her preſent Majeſty, the late Prince *George* of *Denmark*, the Duke of *Marlborough*, and others, left the late King, and join'd the Prince of *Orange*, or thoſe who had taken Arms for him in other Places; upon which, the late King *James* firſt left his Army, and then the Kingdom, but not with a Deſign to abdicate or renounce his Crown; his Letter from *Rocheſter*, and his invading *Ireland* with an Army afterwards, do plainly prove the contrary: But the Nation, by their Repreſentatives in Convention, which was ratify'd afterwards by ſucceſſive Parliaments, charg'd him with overturning our Conſtitution; for which they approv'd what the Prince of *Orange* and the Nation had done againſt him, depriv'd him of the Government, and not only depriv'd himſelf, but all Papiſts, for ever, without Reſpect to Proximity of Blood; by which, not only any Popiſh Iſſue of his own, if he either then had, or ſhould have any, but that of his Siſter, the Dutcheſs of *Orleance*, was excluded, and the Nation abſolv'd from their Allegiance to any King or Queen that ſhould turn Papiſts, or marry a Papiſt; and by 1 *William* and *Mary*, Seſſ. 1. Chap. 8. Parag. 11. that Declaration in the Act of Uniformity, againſt the coercive Power, which the *Rehearſer* ſo much boaſts of, is repeal'd. Now, *Roger*, I demand a plain Anſwer to theſe plain Matters of Fact: otherwiſe I muſt poſt him up as a ſhameleſs, equivocating, and ſhuffling Libeller, when he denies the Revolution to have been founded upon Coercion, and to have re-aſſerted it; for if the Facts and Proceedings above-mention'd, be not Coercion, there never was any ſuch Thing in the World.

Country-m. I am ſatisfy'd, Maſter, that no Man in his Senſes will ſay the contrary. And I am reſolv'd to ſpeak to my Repreſentatives to enquire how it comes to paſs that ſuch a Scribler ſhould be ſuffer'd to write thus with Impunity.

Obſ. And I aſſure you, *Roger*, that I will ſpeak both to ſuch Lords and Commons as I have the Honour to know; for to me 'tis evident this Libeller muſt be ſupported by ſome Body that has too much Influence among us, when he dare thus arraign our Conſtitution, call *Magna Charta* the Effect of Rebellion, and deny the Authentickneſs of St. *Edward*'s Laws, upon which *Magna Charta* was founded, and to the Obſervation of which all our Kings were expreſsly ſworn, 'till the *Rehearſer*'s Faction curtail'd the Oath when the late King *James* was Crown'd; and at the ſame Time tell us, that we are *ſub Miſericordia*; that is, that the Ax is ready for all the Lords, and the Halter for all the Commons, who concurr'd in the late Revolution; for that was not only an aſſerting, but making Uſe of the coercive Power. Other People may think what they pleaſe, *Roger*, but to me it ſeems to expoſe our Nation to be a Jeſt to all *Europe*, that when we dethron'd one that was King, for ſubverting our Conſtitution, and have made all Papiſts, or ſuch as marry Papiſts, uncapable of the Crown, that a ſeditious Scribler ſhould be allow'd to maintain thoſe Principles with ſo much Impudence, according

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ing to which that unhappy Prince, and his arbitrary Miniſtry, acted; and which are directly ſubverſive of all thoſe of the Revolution. But I leave him to a farther Chaſtiſement, *Roger*.

Country-m. This is enough to let him ſee his Folly, as well as Inſolence, in alledging you write faintly for the Cauſe, Maſter; and I believe his ſecret Friends will ſcarcely thank him for giving you this freſh Provocation. But pray, Maſter, let me have your Opinion about our Naval Affairs; for by the Prince's Death, there muſt be a Change in our Admiralty.

Obſ. Such Points are tickliſh for you and me, *Roger*; but I ſhall give you my Opinion, however, in a few Words.

Country-m. Pray do, Maſter, for I hope it may be of Uſe.

Obſ. I ſhall take Care, *Roger*, to ſay what I have ſuch Authority for, as puts it beyond the Reach of *Innuendo's*, or malicious Accuſations; and the firſt Thing is this, That I hope Care will be taken, that no Perſons be employ'd, who were pointed at in the Addreſs of the Houſe of Lords, of the 31ſt of *March*, 1704. 'For delaying his Royal 'Highneſs's Orders to enquire into Abuſes in Victualling the Navy for almoſt three Months, tho' 'of miſchievous Conſequence to the Lives of many thouſands of our Sea-men, and gave an Opportunity for removing ſtinking Proviſions, or 'changing them, ſo as to cover the Frauds and 'Abuſes complain'd of. 2. That Officers in the Admiralty be not multiply'd in favour of thoſe their Lordſhips complain'd of, as they mention in their Addreſs of *Feb.* 2. 1704. 3. That none be employ'd, who were complain'd of in the ſame Addreſs, for Miſapplication of the Money appointed to the Uſe of the Navy; and had any Hand in the Deficiencies of the Sea-men, there alſo mention'd. 4. That none be employ'd, who had a Hand in the Deficiency of the Number of our Cruiſers, and chuſing the worſt Sailors of the Fleet for that Purpoſe, as their Lordſhips complain'd had been done in 1704. 5. That none be employ'd, who have had a Hand in hindering ſuch a Number of Men of War to be maintain'd in the *Weſt Indies*, as might have been ſufficient to defend her Majeſty's Subjects, and annoy her Enemies in thoſe Parts, according to their Lordſhips Addreſs of the 31ſt of *March* 1704. 6. That none be employ'd, who by Neglect, or otherwiſe, have contributed to the ſcandalous Loſs of our Merchant-Ships, for want of ſufficient Convoys, ſince the Beginning of the War. 7. That none of thoſe be employ'd, whom their Lordſhips pointed at in their Addreſs of the 5th. of *March* 1708, for having made the worſt Uſe imaginable of the Truſt put in them by the Lord High Admiral 8. That none of thoſe be employ'd, whom their Lordſhips point at by their Addreſs of the 1ſt of *March* laſt, as having endeavour'd to protect themſelves under the Name of his Royal Highneſs, from a juſt Purſuit of ſuch Faults or Neglects, as immediately tend to the *Ruin of Trade, and the Deſtruction of Brittain*; and gave ſuch Anſwers to the Complaints of the Merchants, as tended rather to expoſe them, than to pity their Loſſes.

Country-m. You have nick'd it now, Maſter. If all the Offices of the Admiralty and Navy, be clear'd of ſuch Perſons, and Men of better Principles and Capacities employ'd, we have Reaſon to hope, that our Naval Affairs will be ſo manag'd, as our Glory may be retriev'd and augmented by Sea, as well as by Land; which will be the moſt ſatisfactory Anſwer to their Lordſhips Addreſs, that the Sea Affairs may always be the firſt and moſt peculiar Care of our Adminiſtration. I muſt deſire your farther Opinion, Maſter, in our next, about the Poſture of Affairs in *Italy*; for Things look ſtill cloudy on that Side.

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